

## PACKERS DEFENDED

## BY IOWA FARMERS

Delegation Tells Senators

State Oves Prosperity

Largely to Them.

## OPPOSE KENYON'S BILL

Licensing System Would Not

Cut Food Cost, Say

Wholesalers.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—A group of

stockmen from the middle West, principally Iowa, and several wholesalers met

and produced dealers from various cities

joined in defense of the "Big Five" packers to-day before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The Kenyon and Kendrick bills proposing Federal license

regulation for the industry and other restrictions found no supporters during the session.

"It's a pity this sort of a bill had to come from a prosperous State like Iowa," said J. S. Blackwell of Kansas, speaking in support of the Kenyon bill.

"Iowa is a sponsor for the chief legislative measure," Iowa cattle feeders are prominent and values have gone up in the last few years from \$50 to \$100 an acre, due to the fact that the packers have made a market for our produce."

"Do you think the packers are entirely responsible for these high prices? Don't you think world shortage had something to do with it?" queried Senator McNary of Oregon.

Blackwell admitted that there were some other causes for the Iowa prosperity, but insisted the packers were the main cause to a great extent. He spoke of the Federal Trade Commission as being responsible for "a one sided report on the packing industry."

H. W. Hill, of Iowa, and J. L. Nichols, of Missouri, also spoke in support of the Kenyon bill, with variations setting forth the unfairness of Government restrictions on business enterprises.

## Calls Iowa Prosperous.

"Iowa farmers are reasonably prosperous," said Charles B. Branton of Dallas, Texas, in presenting a petition from a number of cattle growers opposing the bill.

"Markets are satisfactory. War restrictions on business enterprises are tiresome. We're not in favor of our way of any licensing."

"Your people are not at all alarmed by the spread of the big packers and the intervention into other business lines," inquired Senator Capper (Kan.).

"No, they are furnishing things cheaper than other people or they couldn't expand," replied Branton.

E. H. Haney, of Roy A. Johnston of Taylorville, Ill., expressed similar views, derived, they said, from extensive experience in the cattle business.

W. B. Schneider, a Kansas City wholesaler in groceries and meats, said the licensing proposals were unfair and would add to the cost of food distribution.

"I wish this committee would let me talk profiteering in," said O. Newswell, an independent packer of Madison, Wis., after making a protest against the regulation.

"Anybody is profiteering who takes an unreasonable or exorbitant profit," replied Senator Harrison (Miss.).

"Well, what is an unreasonable profit?" permitted Newswell.

"My notion that it is what some of those fellows get," Senator Harrison responded, "and that is making more than 15 or 20 per cent. profit on a product is profiteering. Don't you think that 20 per cent. on meats is profiteering?"

"Yes, if it is 20 per cent. net," conceded Newswell.

W. E. Robinson, a Maryland vegetable canner, agreed that licensing would increase cost of doing business.

"It won't help at all to cut down prices of anything," said he. "Prices come down until labor is willing to go back to work. It's the man who gets more than 15 or 20 per cent. profit on a product is profiteering. Don't you think that 20 per cent. on meats is profiteering?"

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## BATTLE GETS FEDERAL HELP.

Will Have Trade Board Report on

Market Department.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—Such parts of

the unpublished report of the meat packers investigation by the Federal Trade Commission as relate to the Department of Agriculture and Markets of the State of New York will be put at the disposal of

George Gordon Battle, who is acting as attorney for Gov. Smith in an investigation of that department.

This was agreed to at a conference to-day between the Federal Trade Commission and Mr. Battle.

## Knoxville Jail Still Guarded.

Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 9.—Machine

gunners and armed deputy sheriffs continue to guard the jail here as a precaution against possible attack to release some fifty or more prisoners held there on charges growing out of the rioting of August 30. Threatening letters are being received by Judge Nelson of the criminal court and Sheriff Cate, and it was announced to-day that the guards had been instructed to shoot any attackers.

## Buena Vista Grain Prices.

BUENA VISTA, Sept. 9.—Clothing grain

prices shown in pesos and centavos per 100 lbs. as follows:

WHEAT—Tone weak. FLOUR—Weak.

Oats, 174 1/2; 180; 185; 190; 195; 200; 205; 210; 215; 220; 225; 230; 235; 240; 245; 250; 255; 260; 265; 270; 275; 280; 285; 290; 295; 300; 305; 310; 315; 320; 325; 330; 335; 340; 345; 350; 355; 360; 365; 370; 375; 380; 385; 390; 395; 400; 405; 410; 415; 420; 425; 430; 435; 440; 445; 450; 455; 460; 465; 470; 475; 480; 485; 490; 495; 500; 505; 510; 515; 520; 525; 530; 535; 540; 545; 550; 555; 560; 565; 570; 575; 580; 585; 590; 595; 600; 605; 610; 615; 620; 625; 630; 635; 640; 645; 650; 655; 660; 665; 670; 675; 680; 685; 690; 695; 700; 705; 710; 715; 720; 725; 730; 735; 740; 745; 750; 755; 760; 765; 770; 775; 780; 785; 790; 795; 800; 805; 810; 815; 820; 825; 830; 835; 840; 845; 850; 855; 860; 865; 870; 875; 880; 885; 890; 895; 900; 905; 910; 915; 920; 925; 930; 935; 940; 945; 950; 955; 960; 965; 970; 975; 980; 985; 990; 995; 1000; 1005; 1010; 1015; 1020; 1025; 1030; 1035; 1040; 1045; 1050; 1055; 1060; 1065; 1070; 1075; 1080; 1085; 1090; 1095; 1100; 1105; 1110; 1115; 1120; 1125; 1130; 1135; 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